

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DDA #85-1764
29 MAY 1985

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I take pleasure in submitting, as requested in Section 3 of the CIA Information Act, a report on the feasibility of conducting systematic review for declassification and release of Central Intelligence Agency information of historical value.

This kind of review is indeed feasible, and to carry it out we have established the new Historical Review Program that our report describes. Under this program we have begun the process of declassifying historically significant CIA records for transfer to the National Archives.

This report has been prepared in consultation with those officials and historians specified by the CIA Information Act; their findings are appended to mine. The involvement of these scholars has been extraordinarily helpful, and we have incorporated all of their recommendations into our Historical Review Program.

I especially endorse our consultants' recommendation that we reassemble them, or a comparable panel in two or three years, to assess the program's progress and to make such further recommendations as are necessary. This program has my strong support and we are determined to make it succeed.

As the CIA Information Act directs, I am also sending my report and this letter to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and to the Chairmen of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

7s7 William J. Casey
William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosures

C/HS/DCI/ [REDACTED] (14 May 85)

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**Report of the Director of Central Intelligence
to the Committees of Congress
on the
Historical Review Program**

On 15 October 1984 President Reagan signed into law the Central Intelligence Agency Information Act (Appendix A), which authorizes the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) to exempt certain files from search under the Freedom of Information Act. Section 3(a) of this Act also states that

The Director of Central Intelligence, in consultation with the Archivist of the United States, the Librarian of Congress, and appropriate representatives of the historical discipline selected by the Archivist, shall prepare and submit by June 1, 1985, a report on the feasibility of conducting systematic review for declassification and release of Central Intelligence Agency information of historical value.

The Act directs the DCI to submit this report to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives, and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

In response to this requirement, on 18-19 March 1985 the DCI and members of his staff met at CIA Headquarters with the Archivist of the United States, Dr. Robert M. Warner, the Assistant Librarian for Research Services, Dr. John C. Broderick, representing the the Librarian of Congress, and the following three historians selected by the Archivist:

Dr. John Lewis Gaddis, Distinguished Professor of History, Ohio University

Dr. Richard W. Leopold, William Smith Mason Professor of American History Emeritus, Northwestern University

Dr. Gaddis Smith, Larned Professor of History, Yale University

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